United Nations ST/IC/2005/26

Secretariat

18 May 2005

Information circular*

To: Members of delegations and staff

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services

Subject: **First day of issue — 3 June 2005: "International Year of Sport" stamps**

Commemorative stamps

1. In November 2003, the General Assembly proclaimed 2005 as the International Year of Sport and Physical Education. The Year provides a unique opportunity to focus the world's attention on the importance of sport in society and on how sport and physical education programmes can be used as tools to help combat such challenges as extreme poverty, conflict and HIV/AIDS and help achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

2. On Friday, 3 June 2005, in response to the Assembly proclamation, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of six new commemorative stamps, on the theme "International Year of Sport".

* Expiration date of the present information circular: 14 June 2005.

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3. The six stamps were designed by Roland Hirter (Switzerland) and will be issued in denominations of 37¢, 70¢, F.s. 1,00, F.s. 1,30, €0,55 and €1,10. Mr. Hirter also designed a seventh "Sport 2005" stamp, which was issued by UNPA in November 2004.

(United States equivalents: F.s. 1,00: 88 cents; F.s. 1,30: $1.14; €0,55: 73 cents and €1,10: $1.46, subject to exchange rate fluctuation.)

General information

4. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first-day covers on the UNPA official first-day cachets **only**. Members of delegations and the staff can obtain these items on Friday, 3 June, at the following locations:

(a) The UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

(b) Temporary sales counter located on the east side of the Secretariat lobby in front of the windows between the cafeteria and the news-stand, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

5. First day of issue cancellations can be obtained at a temporary United States Postal Service substation located outside the United Nations Bookshop in the concourse of the General Assembly Building, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

6. Information on United Nations stamps can be accessed on the Internet at http://www.un.org/Depts/UNPA.